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FROM THE SOUTH.

The following Southern news is telegraphed from Fortress Monroe, where Richmond papers of late dates have been received.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 16.—All is quiet. Gen. Beauregard inspected Fort Sumter last night. A heavy northeast blow is now prevailing.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 17.—Four shells were thrown into the city last night. Our batteries opened heavily and silenced the enemy.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 18.—Ten shells were fired at this city this morning. Our batteries have kept up a steady fire on the enemy, who are engaged in obstructing approaches to the batteries on Morris Island.

There was some firing on Stono to-day.—Two vessels, including the Ironsides, and four monitors are inside the bar, and the usual number in Stono.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 18.—The enemy has been quiet during the last twenty four hours.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 20.—The enemy opened fire on the city between 12 and 1 o'clock, and threw fifteen shells. This afternoon twenty more were fired. No damage to buildings and no one injured. Our batteries replied.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 21.—There is little change in the condition of affairs. A few shots have been exchanged between the enemy's batteries, firing on Moultrie, and ours.—There is no firing on Sumter. The enemy continue to work in batteries Gregg and Wagner, extending their flank of the former and sodding the latter. There are no important movements of the fleet.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SWEET SPRING MOUNTAIN, Dec. 20.—The enemy finding this point guarded turned off from Scott's and went towards Covington.—They may attempt to cross from Rich Pass to Dunlap's Ford. General Echols is blockading that road.

They have burned a number of their wagons, killed broken down horses, and lost much ammunition, and are travelling in haste. There was a large fire this morning in the direction of Jackson river.

BRISTOL, December 19.—A skirmish took place last Monday at Bean's Station. The enemy, after a stubborn resistance, retreated toward Knoxville. We captured seventy wagon loads of stores and some prisoners. Our loss in killed and wounded was about 800.—Gen. Gracie was wounded. Two hundred and twenty-five prisoners have arrived.

DALTON, December 18.—Gen. Joseph E. Johnston has been appointed to the command of the Tennessee army, and is expected here early next week.

Gen. Hindman has arrived and taken command of his old division.

Sherman's corps has fallen back from Knoxville, and passed through Cleveland yesterday.

ORANGE COURT HOUSE, December 17.—The enemy occupy Culpeper in force, with pickets extending to the Rapidan River. Supplies of clothing have been distributed to our troops.

LYNCHBURG, December 17.—The enemy, 2,500 strong with several pieces of artillery, under Averill left Salem, last evening the way they came.

RUMORS FROM RICHMOND.

[From the N. Y. Evening Post of Tuesday.]

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22.—By a gentleman who left Richmond on the 20th, we have the following later information:

He says that the Richmond papers of the 20th have dispatches from Bristol, Tennessee, stating that Gen. Longstreet with his army was advancing, and no doubt a severe battle would be fought in the vicinity of Jonesboro', Tennessee.

Reinforcements from Col. Jackson's and Gen. Sam. Jones' command were going to Longstreet.

A dispatch from Meridian, Miss., reports that Gen. Joe Johnston's army is in motion, and it is conjectured that it intends to reinforce Gen. Hardee.

It is rumored in Richmond that Gen. Lee will be sent to take command in Northwest Georgia. His army in Virginia has gone into winter quarters except one division under General Early.

Some uneasiness and excitement existed in the vicinity of Staunton, Va., in consequence of the near approach of Averill's command. Imboden and Echols were endeavoring to oppose Averill's further advance, and a fight is expected in that quarter also.

In Congress the substitute bill has been abrogated, and all persons who have put substitutes in the army are now compelled to go themselves.

Henry S. Foote still continues his severe denunciation of the Administration.

It is rumored that commissioners will be sent to the Court of Madrid in behalf of the Confederacy.

It is stated in the Enquirer that President Davis will soon make a decided change in the whole government and also in the army.

A preliminary hearing in a killing case, the result of a difficulty in a house of ill repute, was had in Washington, yesterday. It appears that on the evening of Monday, December 14th, a Mr. Samuel Stevenson, a Kentucky gentleman of wealth, who was for a time sojourning at the National Hotel, paid a visit to the house of one Miss Crebeling. There were in the house at the time a crowd of other visitors. A man was quarreling with a woman in the house, and Mr. Stevenson, interfered, on the score that no one should chastise a woman, and the result was an altercation. Mr. Stevenson subsequently received a blow on the top of the head, from the effects of which he died at 7 o'clock next day.

Some months since Mr. James Monroe Sawyer was fatally stabbed in Boston by Edward Owens, while walking with a young married woman named Etta Stanley, jealously being the cause. Owens pleaded guilty of murder in the second degree, and yesterday was sentenced to the State prison for life. He is twenty two years old, and very respectably connected.

All citizens at Chattanooga from the North are being enrolled with the view of covering the order for a draft.

NORFOLK LETTER.

[Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer.]

NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 20, 1863.—General Wild's expedition of negro troops that left here about a fortnight since for Elizabeth City, has returned from there.

During the time it was out it collected several hundred negroes and sent them within the lines. Many of these have since enlisted and are now serving as United States soldiers.

The country through which the expedition passed was thoroughly scoured. At Woodville, N. C., a guerrilla camp was destroyed, and a guerrilla, ranking as a lieutenant, was captured and hung.

Whilst at Elizabeth City, three of the negro soldiers were poisoned; two of whom have since died.

One of General Wild's negroes was captured, and as a retaliatory act, two women, wives of members of a guerrilla band, were seized as hostages. They have been brought in with the expedition, and the Chief of one of the band notified that they will meet with the same fate as the negro in their hands until he is delivered up. A promise has been made that the negro shall be returned, and when this is done the women will be sent back to their homes.—Together with other captures made by the expedition, two small schooners, blockade runners, were taken near the mouth of Neuse River.

Between Monday and yesterday, about five thousand persons took the oath of allegiance to the United States Government, before the Provost Marshal of this city. The time for the administration of the oath expired several days ago, but it has been extended.

On the Portsmouth side of the river the oath is being taken by large numbers of people. The average number to whom it is now being administered will probably amount to two hundred and fifty daily, both here and in Portsmouth.

Under the cover of the night, some of the Federal gun-boats stationed on James River doing picket duty, were fired upon several times last week by roving guerrillas.

In the recent expedition of the Federal forces, under Col. West, from Williamsburg to Charles City Court House, a female in soldier's uniform was captured. She was extremely plucky, and, for some time, denied her sex. To avoid an examination, however, she confessed that she was a hospital nurse, and had adopted the plan of riding every morning in male attire, and was engaged in her customary excursion when she was captured. She went up to City Point clothed in the proper habiliments.

Dates received from Mexico via Acapulco, are to the 24th ult. Great suffering for provisions prevailed among the poor classes. The fortifications were constantly being strengthened. The French had advanced no farther into the interior since occupying Queretaro. The killing of Comonfort had aroused a feeling of intense bitterness among the native population.

Gen. Ullman, who, with a part of his brigade, was captured near Port Hudson, is now a prisoner of war in Richmond.